Ash Pond Accident at NALCO

*57. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Aluminium Company Ltd. Orissa has two large ash ponds;

(b) whether one of these ponds developed a breach of embankment on Dec. 31, 2000, resulting in sudden flooding of the villages down the stream of Nadira rivulet;

(c) if so, the extent of damage caused to the people, plants and water of the region, indicating the loss of life and property, the amount of compensation paid by NALCO; and

(d) the cause of the accident and whether there is apprehension of similar accident in NALCO?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is no loss of life and personal property except for some damage of crops. District Authorities constituted several Committees to assess the loss of or damage to property, crops, and soil condition, as also to assess the restoration measures required in the area. The Collector reviewed the progress of relief and restoration measures undertaken in the affected villages. He conducted a meeting which was attended by local MPs, MLAs, Zilla Parishad Members, Sarpanch and other public representatives, officials of State Government and NALCO officials, where issues relating to water supply, compensation for crops, damage/loss to the property, removal of ash from the land, reclamation of Government land and repair and renovation of damaged infrastructure etc. were deliberated upon and on receipt of consensus view of the public representatives

and Government officials, the Collector, Angul recommended an amount of Rs. 1121.76 lakhs for immediate payment. This amount includes compensation and developmental work and will be paid directly to District Administration for settlement of claims to the ultimate beneficiaries against individual acknowledgement.

(d) In order to assess the cause of accident, Ministry of Mines has constituted an independent Committee headed by an Executive Director, NTPC. One internal Committee has also been constituted by NALCO to find out the cause of accident. The Reports of the two Committees are expected by end of February, 2001. The experts from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore have examined both ash ponds of NALCO. The required repairs, reconstruction and strengthening wroks as per the suggestion and advice of these Scientists have been taken up. In view of this, there is no apprehension of another similar accident.

Centrally-sponsored Health Schemes by NGOs

* 58. SHRI K.M. KHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally-sponsored health care schemes being operated through NGOs in the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the details of funds allocated and released to State Governments for these schemes and utilized by them during each of the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Para-wise details of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Programmes in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare are given below:

1. NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL PROGRAMME:

(a) As a part of Centrally Sponsored Health Care Scaeme, National AIDS Control Organisation has spelt out a clear policy for:

(i) Care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS